THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 21st July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras.

* 144 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many patients in Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Madras, are lying on the floor on account of the scarcity of beds and if so, what steps the Government propose to take in this matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Yes. The question of providing additional accommodation in the hospital has been under consideration."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that accommodation in the Government hospitals in rural parts is very bad and if so, whether the Government will give first preference to improve the accommodation in those places before considering the question of the Madras hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" This question is about the Ophthalmic Hospital. The number of beds has been increased from 170 to 302 in 1950. There is a proposal to take over a bungalow which is near this hospital and shift some of the departments there so as to find accommodation for about 100 more beds."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN:—" ஒரே ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் கண் வியாதியஸ்தர்கள் எல்லோரையும் 'Concentrate' பண்ணுவதற்கு பதிலாக கிராமங்களில் Eye camp ஏற்படுத்தினால் சௌகரியமாக இருக்கும்.

" We have some experience in organizing some eye-camps in the different villages. Will the Government consider the question of running such camps in the different parts of the country so that this overcrowding in the Ophthalmic hospital could be prevented? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" We have 18 eye departments in our District Headquarters Hospitals and we have under consideration the question of opening Ophthalmic departments in two other District Headquarters Hospitals. There are proposals to start mobile Ophthalmic units in two other districts and to open eye-camps in Chittoor and Ramanathapuram districts."

Sri M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know whether the Government would introduce free streptomycin injection for extremely poor and deserving T.B. patients in all District Headquarters Hospitals? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Sri G. NAGABHUSHANAM :—" Are the Government aware that there are a large number of patients sleeping on the floor in the Bellary District Headquarters Hospital? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question."

Minor Ports.

* 145 *Q.*—Sri K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have received the report of the Special Officer for the investigation of minor ports appointed by the Ministry of Transport, Government of India, in so far as it affects minor ports in Madras State and if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" The report of the Special Officer (Minor Ports) has been received and is under the consideration of the State and the Central Governments."

Sri K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that the ports between Madras and Visakhapatnam have been very sorely neglected in the past 10 years? "

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have already answered that the report of the Special Officer is under consideration."

Sri S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" May I know whether there are any proposals before the Government to convert the Malpe port into an all-weather port? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister has already said that the report is under consideration."

Agricultural Research Stations.

* 146 *Q.*—Sri T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many research stations doing Agricultural Research are maintained by the Madras Government; and

(*b*) how many of them, if any do research in (1) coconut farming, (2) arecanut farming and (3) pepper farming?

The Hon. Dr. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) Forty-five Research Stations.